

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Drawings:

The Examiner has found the drawings acceptable subject to correction of the informalities noted PTO-948 which indicated that the top margins on Figure 4 and Figure 5 were not acceptable. The attached replacement sheets for Figure 4 and Figure 5 have correct margins.

Claim Objections:

In the Office Action dated March 4, 2004 the Examiner has objected to claims 7-9 as being substantial duplicates of claims 1-3. The Examiner's observation that the difference in the claims is only a slight difference in the wording of the preamble is, of course, correct. The Examiner requests Applicants to explain how the claims differ in scope. Applicant submits that the different wording of the preamble in claim 7 characterizes the invention in a slightly different way. By submitting claim 7 Applicants believe they are properly taking advantage of their prerogative to characterize their invention in different ways, even if the steps of the invention remained the same.

The Examiner has also noted that claims 10-12 would be objected to for the same reason if claims 4-6 are found allowable. If the Examiner should conclude that Applicants are permitted to characterize their invention as they have done in claim 7, Applicants submit that this objection to claims 10-12 should also be removed.

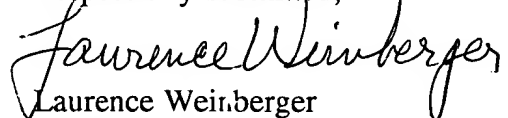
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112:

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6 and 10-12: "...under 35 USC, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement." The Examiner has also rejected claims 4-6 and 10-12: "...under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants withdraw claims 4-6 and 10-12 from consideration in this application. The withdrawal is noted in the claim listing. Applicants intend to represent these claims in a continuation application, and their withdrawal from consideration in this application is not intended to reflect any belief on the part of Applicants that the Examiner is correct in the rejections. In fact, Applicants believe these claims are allowable. These claims are being withdrawn to expedite the issue of a patent containing the presently allowed claims.

Applicant respectfully requests in view of the remarks presented that the Examiner permit the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached two sheets of drawings have been corrected to have the proper margin sizes as required. No change has been made to the figures themselves.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets